

Remarks

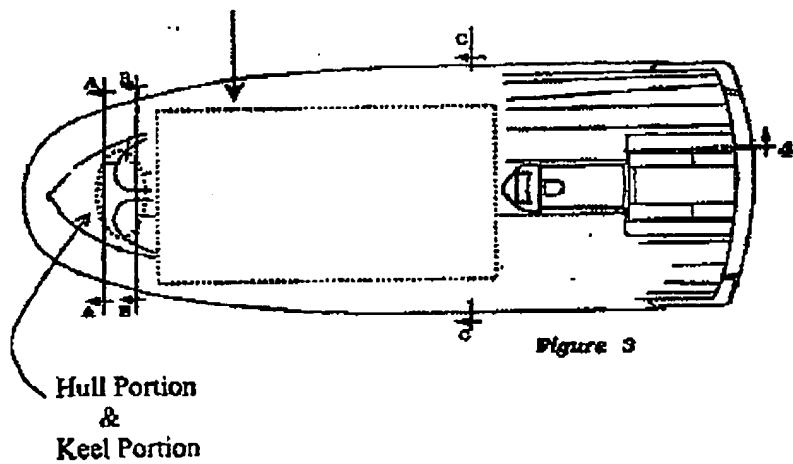
This communication responds to the Office Action mailed November 3, 2005 for the application captioned above. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the reply filed on 08/19/2005 was not fully responsive to the Office Action mailed 05/17/2005 because the Applicants have not fully addressed all outstanding rejections. Specifically, the Examiner stated that Applicant did not provide arguments as to why the unamended claim 8 defines over the rejection based on Hattori et al (US 5,390,621). Applicant provides such remarks below.

The Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hattori '621 (US 5,390,621). In light of the remarks that follow, Applicant respectfully disagrees and requests reconsideration. Claim 8 recites "the keel portion terminating longitudinally forward of the water inlet." To the extent that "flat rear central portion 27" of Hattori '621 constitutes a keel (as argued by the Examiner), this flat central portion 27 extends rearward of the water inlet 46 of Hattori '621.

In support of the rejection of claim 8 in the Office Action, the Examiner states that "keel portion [27] extends the length of the hull portion, as shown by dotted lines below." A copy of the Examiner's annotated version of Figure 3 of Hattori '621 is copied below.

Middle Portion of the Hull



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The Examiner annotates Figure 3 to try and show that portion 27 terminates forward of the water inlet. However, the Examiner's annotations appear to be arbitrary. Applicant submits there is no evidence that flat rear portion 27 terminates forward of water inlet 46 in Hattori '621. To the contrary, Hattori '621 recites, as copied below, that flat rear central portion 27 extends from the rear of the hull portion.

The hull 23 and specifically its underside is formed with a generally flat lower section, indicated generally by the reference numeral 26 which has a flat rear central portion 27 that extends from the rear of the hull portion 23 forwardly with the section 27 assuming some gentle upwardly curved taper [sic] as it approaches the forward or bow end as seen in FIG. 5. (Hattori '621, col. 4, ll. 53-59, emphasis added).

The "rear of the hull portion" (from which portion 27 extends) is, of course, rearward of the water inlet 46. The "rear of the hull portion" is clearly not the dotted lines proximate section C-C as indicated in the Examiner's annotation of Figure 3. Moreover, portion 27 is named the "rear central portion 27." A portion that is entitled "rear" would not terminate roughly midway through the length of the hull. Finally, Figure 3 shows portion 27 continuing rearward of the water inlet along the right and left lateral sides of the inlet.

To the extent that rear central portion 27 constitutes a keel, as argued by the Examiner, such portion 27 does not terminate forward of the water inlet of Hattori '621. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the §102(b) rejection based on Hattori '621 of claim 8 (including any rejected, associated dependent claims) should be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that Applicant's response is fully responsive. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested. Applicant believes no fee is due to enter the present Amendment. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees required to Deposit Account No. 061910. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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